MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
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AUTHORITY

# MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

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## WEAPON-X

CHAPTER TWO

The Professor has begun his mysterious experiment on Logan.

Story/Art — BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH
Letterer — JIM NOVAK and BWS

## SHANNA

The Bush of Ghosts
Part 7 of 10

"A MAN OF THE PEOPLE"

Guy Cross-Wallace has built a citadel in the heart of Africa, from which he plans to export his murderous version of ancient African religion. Reporter Eric Heller has been captured and is being tortured by fire. Shanna and Jeremy Mchele have been spotted outside the citadel walls. DuBose Wilson is nearby, but unconscious.

Writer — GERARD JONES
Penciler — PAUL GULACY
Inker — GARY MARTIN
Letterer — JADE MOEDE
Colorist — STEVE MATTSSON

## CONSTRICTOR

"THE FREEBIE"

Before the criminal Corporation went belly up, a low-level Chicago thug named Frank Schlichting was given Adamantium coils and became The Constrictor. But the anger and hatred that prompted him to lash out at the world as a professional assassin started long before then...

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — SCOTT MCDANIELS
Inker — RANDY EMBERLIN
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — BRAD VANCATA

## ICEMAN/TORCH

"ABSOLUTE ZERO"

Johnny Storm, the Human Torch! Bobby Drake, the Mutant Iceman! Super powers at opposite ends of the temperature scale. Super powers that must somehow work together to stop a fatal countdown, before time runs out forever...!

Writer — DAN MISHKIN
Penciler — JOE STATON
Inker — DAN ADKINS
Letterer — JIM MASSARA
Colorist — MARK GUGGENHEIM

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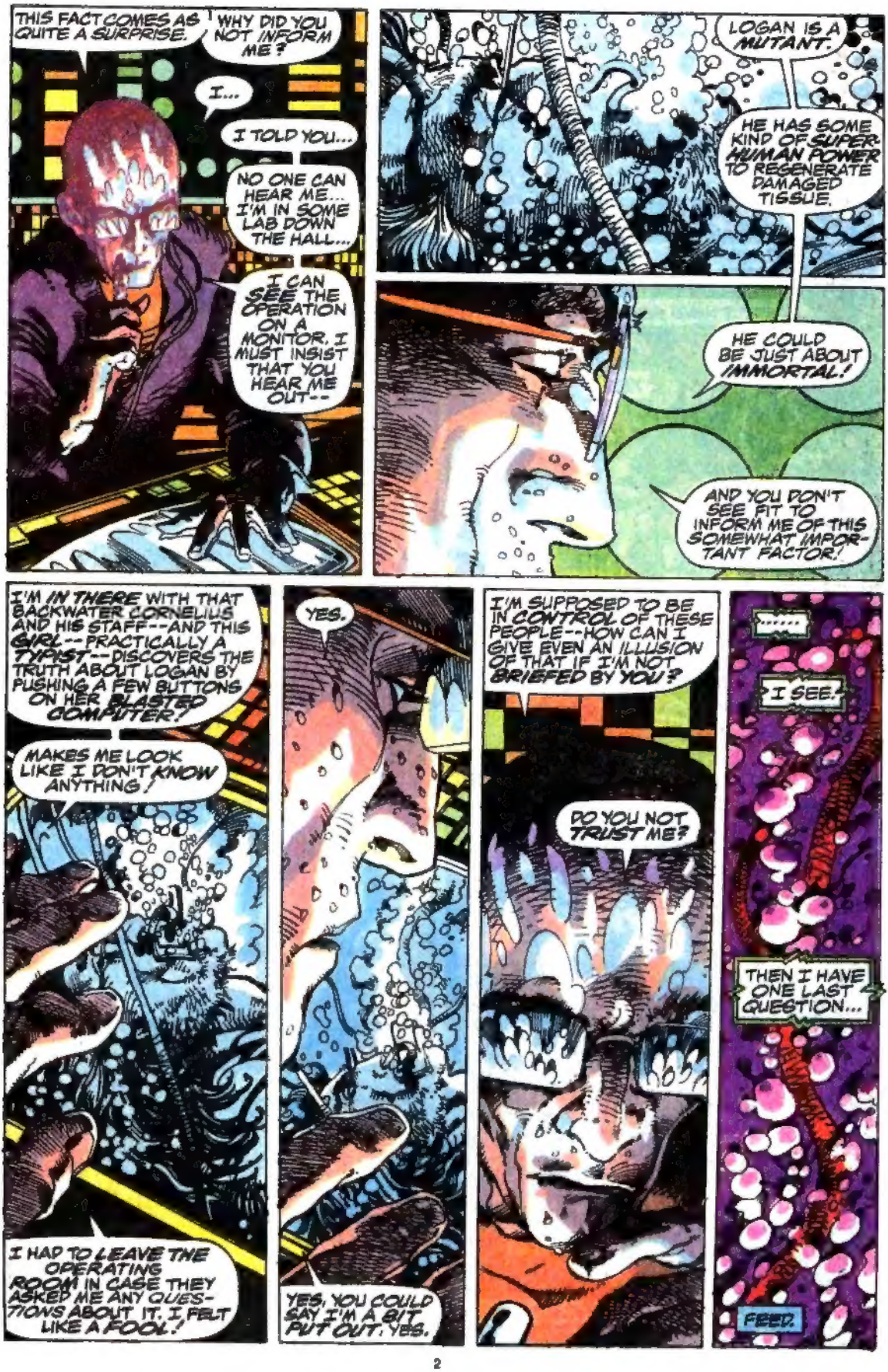
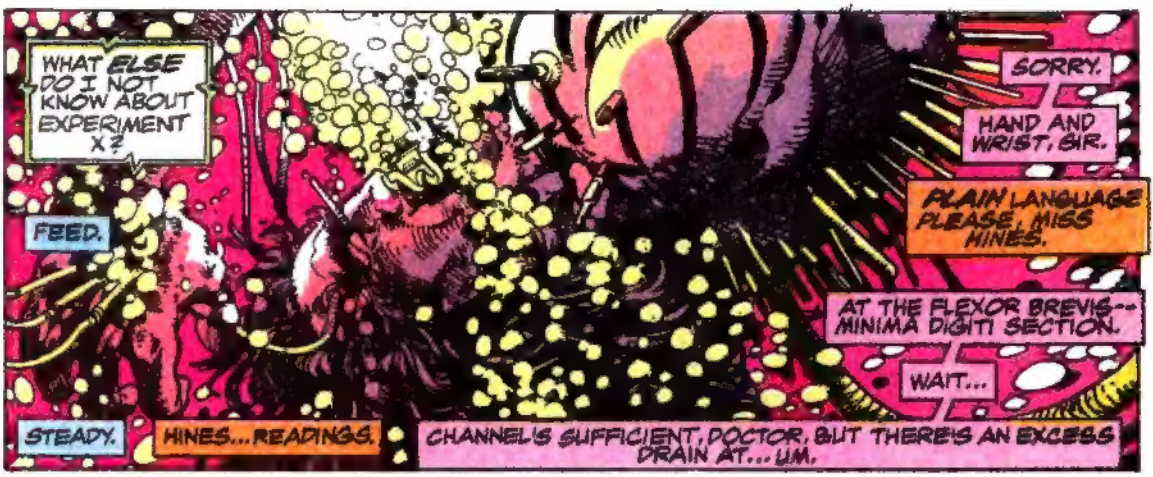
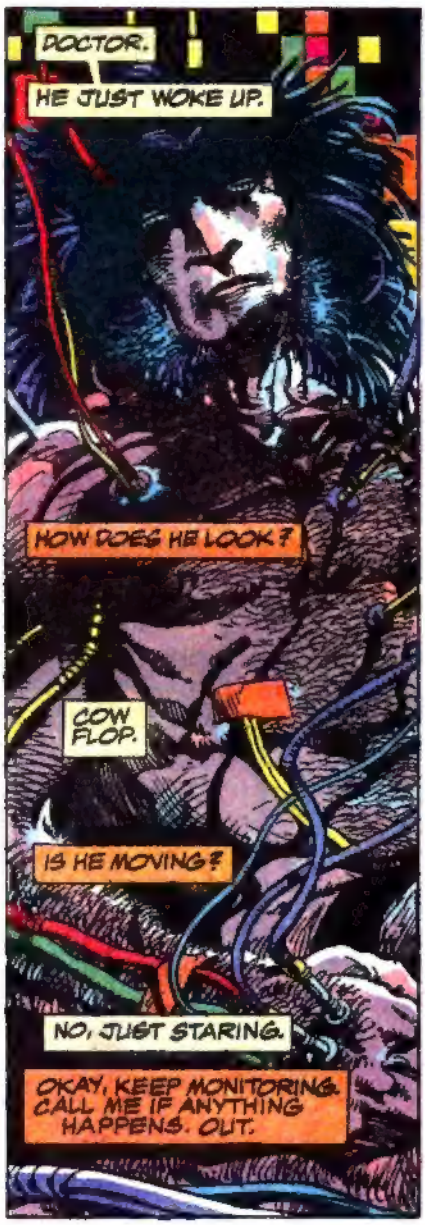
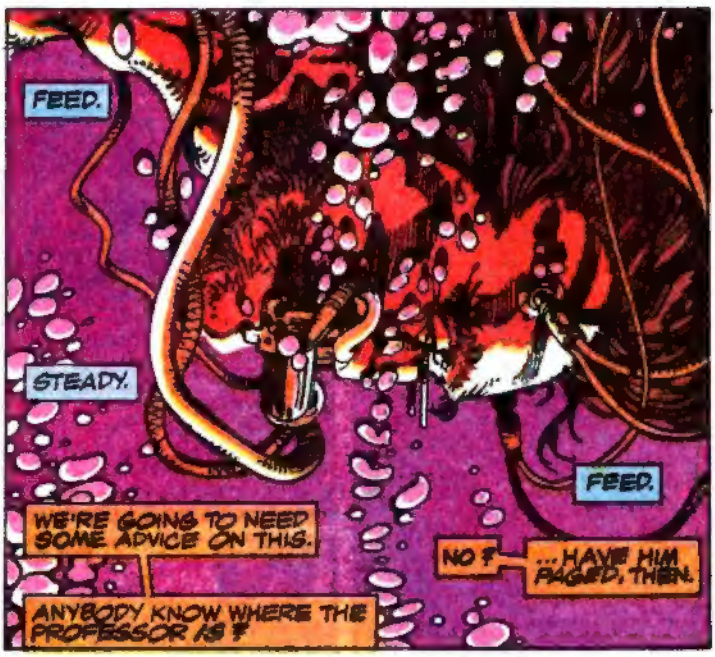
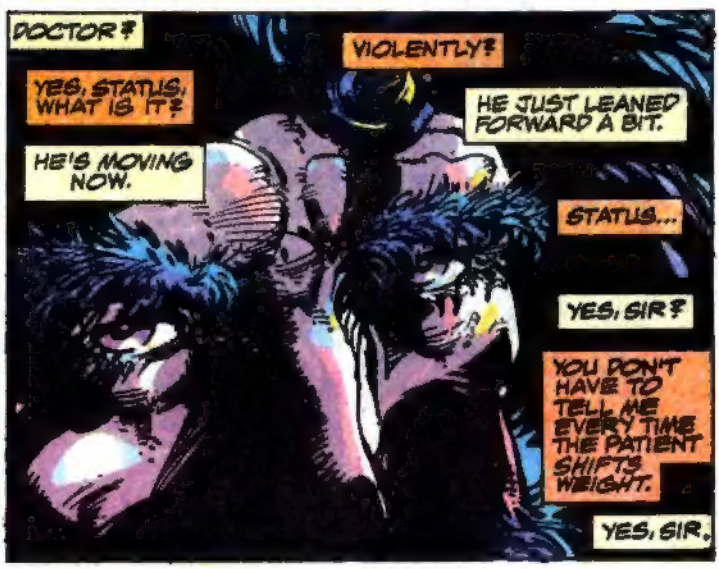
IT IS I.
IT'S SAFE, NO ONE CAN HEAR.
YES, I KNOW--
BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY...
YES...
...THE OPERATION IS PROCEEDING RIGHT NOW...
YES...
OF COURSE HE'LL SURVIVE IT...
THAT'S THE POINT...
YOU KNEW.
YOU KNEW THAT LOGAN WAS A MUTANT!
CORNELIUS HERE...
STATUS?
RESTING, DOCTOR. BUT HE'S ON THE FLOOR, NOT ON HIS COT.
S'OKAY. ANYTHING TO REPORT?
NO, SIR...
'CEPT...
WHAT?
WELL, Y'KNOW...
LOOKS LIKE THIS GUY'S REALLY BEEN THROUGH THE MILL!
HUH.
YEAH.
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
OUT.

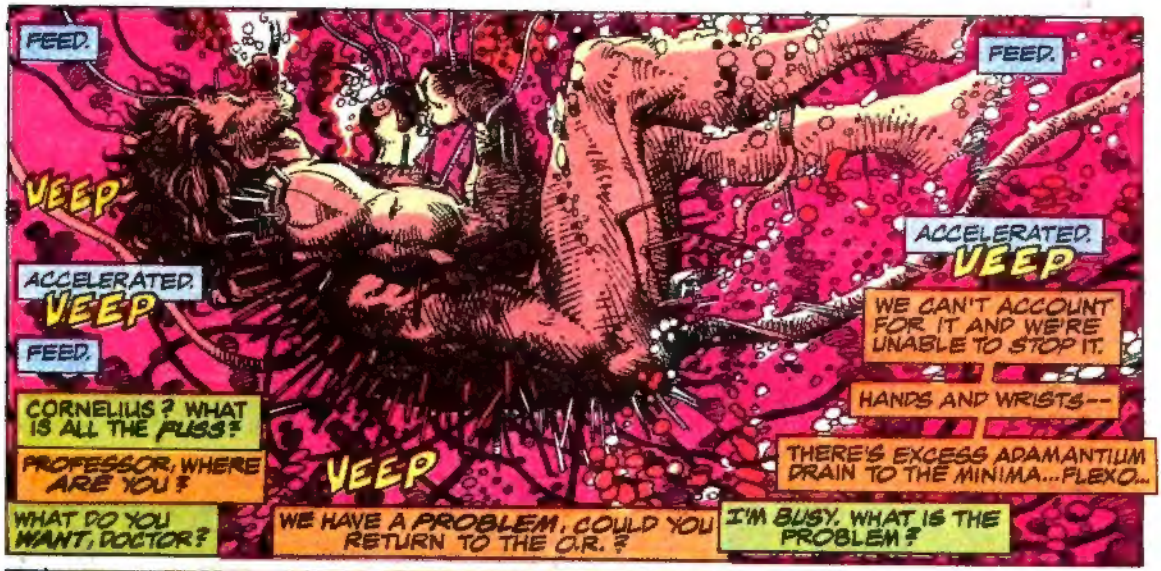

THIS FACT COMES AS QUITE A SURPRISE.
WHY DID YOU NOT INFORM ME?
I...
I TOLD YOU...
NO ONE CAN HEAR ME... I'M IN SOME LAB DOWN THE HALL...
I CAN SEE THE OPERATION ON A MONITOR, I MUST INSIST THAT YOU HEAR ME OUT--
LOGAN IS A MUTANT.
HE HAS SOME KIND OF SUPER-HUMAN POWER TO REGENERATE DAMAGED TISSUE.
HE COULD BE JUST ABOUT IMMORTAL!
AND YOU DON'T SEE FIT TO INFORM ME OF THIS SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT FACTOR!
I'M IN THERE WITH THAT BACKWATER CORNELIUS AND HIS STAFF--AND THIS GIRL--PRACTICALLY A TYPIST--DISCOVERS THE TRUTH ABOUT LOGAN BY PUSHING A FEW BUTTONS ON HER BLASTED COMPUTER!
MAKES ME LOOK LIKE I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
I HAD TO LEAVE THE OPERATING ROOM IN CASE THEY ASKED ME ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. I FELT LIKE A FOOL!
YES.
YES, YOU COULD SAY I'M A BIT PUT OUT. YES.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN CONTROL OF THESE PEOPLE--HOW CAN I GIVE EVEN AN ILLUSION OF THAT IF I'M NOT BRIEFED BY YOU?
DO YOU NOT TRUST ME?
.....
I SEE.
THEN I HAVE ONE LAST QUESTION...
FEED.

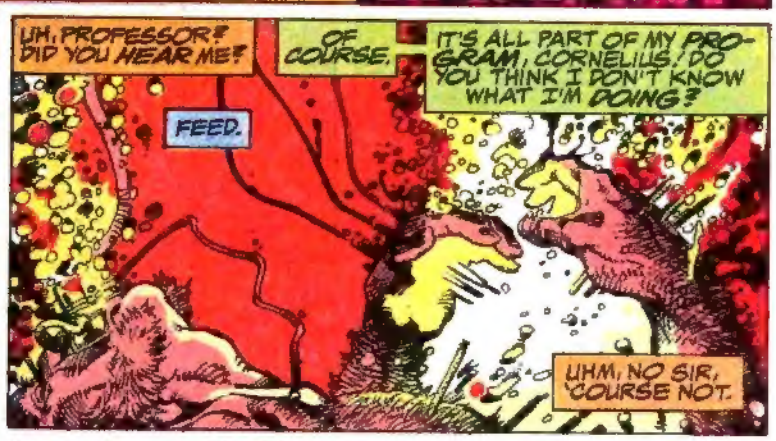

WHAT ELSE DO I NOT KNOW ABOUT EXPERIMENT X?
FEED.
STEADY.
HINES...READINGS.
CHANNEL'S SUFFICIENT, DOCTOR, BUT THERE'S AN EXCESS DRAIN AT... UM.
WAIT...
AT THE FLEXOR BREVIS--MINIMA DIGITI SECTION.
PLAIN LANGUAGE PLEASE, MISS HINES.
HAND AND WRIST, SIR.
SORRY.

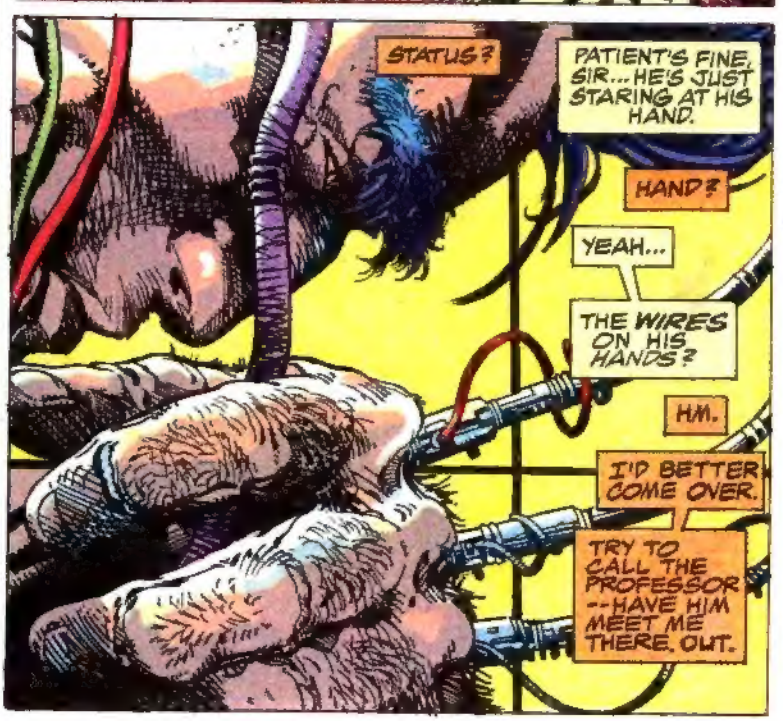

DOCTOR.
HE JUST WOKE UP.
HOW DOES HE LOOK?
COW FLOP.
IS HE MOVING?
NO, JUST STARING.
OKAY, KEEP MONITORING. CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS. OUT.

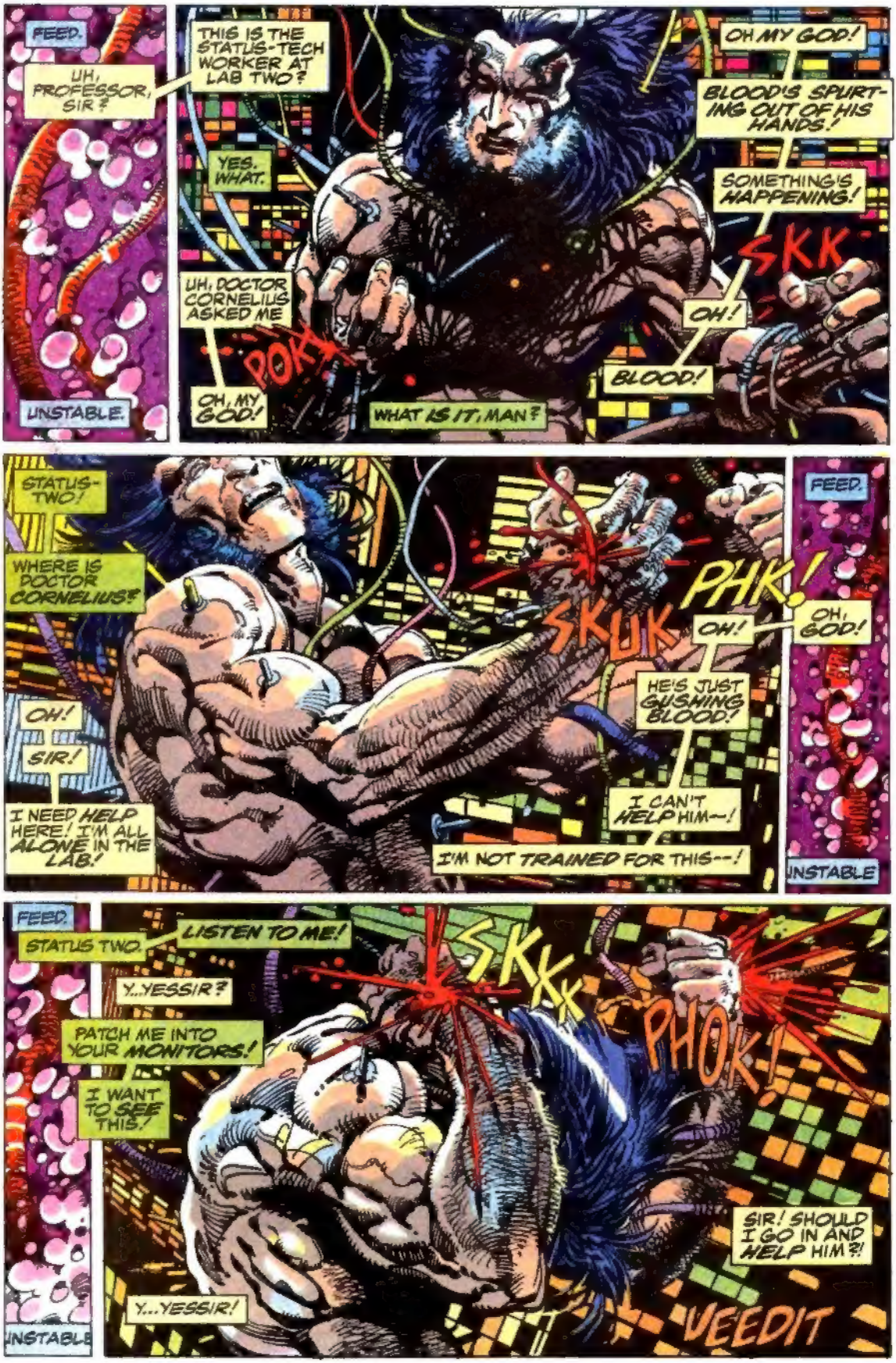

FEED.
STEADY.
FEED.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME ADVICE ON THIS.
ANYBODY KNOW WHERE THE PROFESSOR IS?
NO?
...HAVE HIM PAGED, THEN.


DOCTOR?
YES, STATUS, WHAT IS IT?
HE'S MOVING NOW.
VIOLENTLY?
HE JUST LEANED FORWARD A BIT.
STATUS...
YES, SIR?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME EVERY TIME THE PATIENT SHIFTS WEIGHT.
YES, SIR.


FEED.
VEEP
ACCELERATED.
VEEP
FEED.
CORNELIUS? WHAT IS ALL THE FUSS?
PROFESSOR, WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, DOCTOR?
VEEP
WE HAVE A PROBLEM, COULD YOU RETURN TO THE O.R.?
I'M BUSY. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
FEED.
ACCELERATED.
VEEP
WE CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR IT AND WE'RE UNABLE TO STOP IT.
HANDS AND WRISTS--
THERE'S EXCESS ADAMANTIUM DRAIN TO THE MINIMA...FLEXO...


UH, PROFESSOR? DID YOU HEAR ME?
OF COURSE.
IT'S ALL PART OF MY PROGRAM, CORNELIUS. DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING?
FEED.
UHM, NO SIR, 'COURSE NOT.


STATUS?
PATIENT'S FINE, SIR... HE'S JUST STARING AT HIS HAND.
HAND?
YEAH...
THE WIRES ON HIS HANDS?
HM.
I'D BETTER COME OVER.
TRY TO CALL THE PROFESSOR --HAVE HIM MEET ME THERE. OUT.


FEED.
UH, PROFESSOR, SIR?
UNSTABLE.
THIS IS THE STATUS-TECH WORKER AT LAB TWO?
YES. WHAT.
UH, DOCTOR CORNELIUS ASKED ME
POK!
OH, MY GOD!
WHAT IS IT, MAN?
OH MY GOD!
BLOOD'S SPURTING OUT OF HIS HANDS!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
SKK
OH!
BLOOD!
STATUS-TWO!
WHERE IS DOCTOR CORNELIUS?
OH!
SIR!
I NEED HELP HERE! I'M ALL ALONE IN THE LAB!
SKUK
PHK!
OH!
HE'S JUST GUSHING BLOOD!
I CAN'T HELP HIM--!
I'M NOT TRAINED FOR THIS--!
FEED.
OH, GOD!
UNSTABLE
FEED.
STATUS TWO.
LISTEN TO ME!
Y..YESSIR?
PATCH ME INTO YOUR MONITORS!
I WANT TO SEE THIS!
SKXX
PHOK!
SIR! SHOULD I GO IN AND HELP HIM?!
Y...YESSIR!
VEEDIT
UNSTABLE

UHH!
NOT YET, STATUS!
NO!...
BUT HE MUST BE IN TERRIBLE PAIN, SIR!
YES! I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!
LOOK AT THAT!
UHHMM...

YOU SAID YOU'RE ALL ALONE IN LAB TWO, DID YOU, STATUS?
YES SIR, AND I'M NOT TRAINED--OH--

--GOD!! HE'S GOT... LIKE... SPIKES COMING OUT OF HIM!
SHCLUK!
RIGHT OUT OF HIS HANDS!!
WHAT SHALL I DO?!
STAY CALM, STATUS...
DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE PATIENTS BOOTH?

YES, SIR, I DO!
THEN YOU SHOULD GO IN THERE AND TRY TO HELP THE POOR MAN!
YES!
--I'LL DO THAT, SIR--
IF YOU SAY!

BE SURE TO CLOSE THE SECURITY DOOR AFTER YOU ENTER, STATUS...
JUST TO BE SAFE.
GOOD LAD.

YOU. YOU. COME WITH ME.
YES, SIR.
ANYTHING WRONG, SIR?
COULD BE... DUNNO... SOMETHING...
JUST STICK CLOSE.
THE LAB-WORKER HERE... WHAT'S HIS NAME?
UHM, NOT SURE... CAL OR COLE OR SOMETHING.
LABORATORY Z
HE'S NEW, SIR. JUST TODAY.
NEW?
THEN HE SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS SECTION.
AAAAAAGH!!
GOOD LORD!!
HE'S DEAD!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?!!
HE'S DEAD!
JEEZ!
SIR! WHAT IS THAT?!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

SIR GUY CROSS-WALLACE -- SHE STIRS, THIS OLD CONTINENT, WRITHING WITH A BLOOD THAT HASN'T SWELLED HER VEINS SINCE EUROPEANS FIRST TRAMPLED HER, WEIGHED DOWN WITH GUNS AND MONEY.
HOW SWEET THAT WESTERN GUNS AND MONEY HAVE PAID FOR OUR LITTLE CRUSADE.
HOW SWEET THAT WESTERN GUNS AND MONEY HAVE PLACED ME IN CONTROL.
THE SOUL OF AFRICA SEIZED ME ONCE, AND LIBERATED ME FROM MY BRITTLE MODERN THOUGHT. NOW I'VE SEIZED THE SOUL OF AFRICA IN TURN, AND IT WILL EARN ME A RATHER TERRIBLE POWER.
THE BUSH OF GHOSTS
PART 7
A MAN OF THE PEOPLE
FEATURING.
SHANNA
SHE-DEVIL

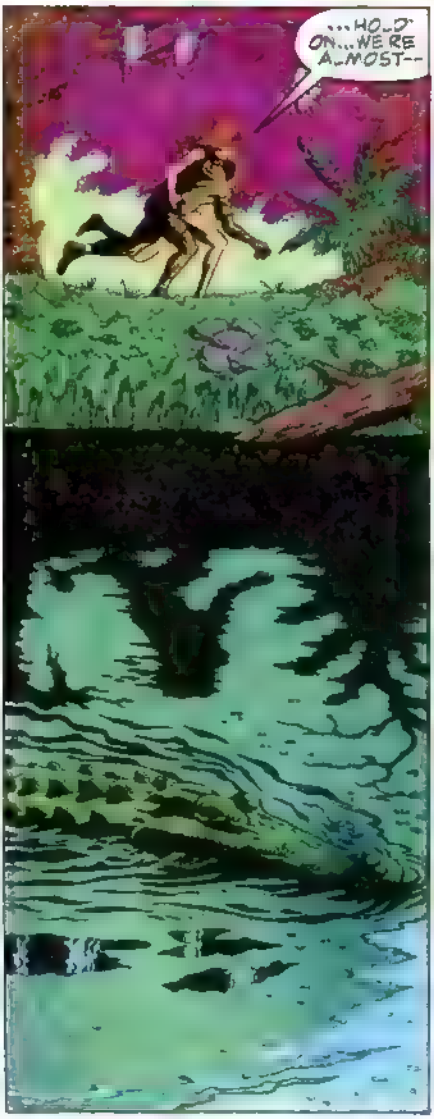
THIS EXCITES THEM FOR THE MOMENT. BUT I FEEL MY PEOPLE'S ENTHUSIASM QUICKLY DYING...
...UNLESS I HURRY TO THE RITUAL'S NEXT--
CLOSER THEY COME--FIRE IN THEIR HANDS AND BLOOD IN THEIR EYES--
MAMA! WHAT IS IT?
WHAT IS IT?!
CAN'T AFFORD TROUBLE NOW, BLAST IT. I--
OUTSIDERS--ARMED?
THEN FIRE!
FIRE!
TA TA TA TATATA TATA
TA TA TA

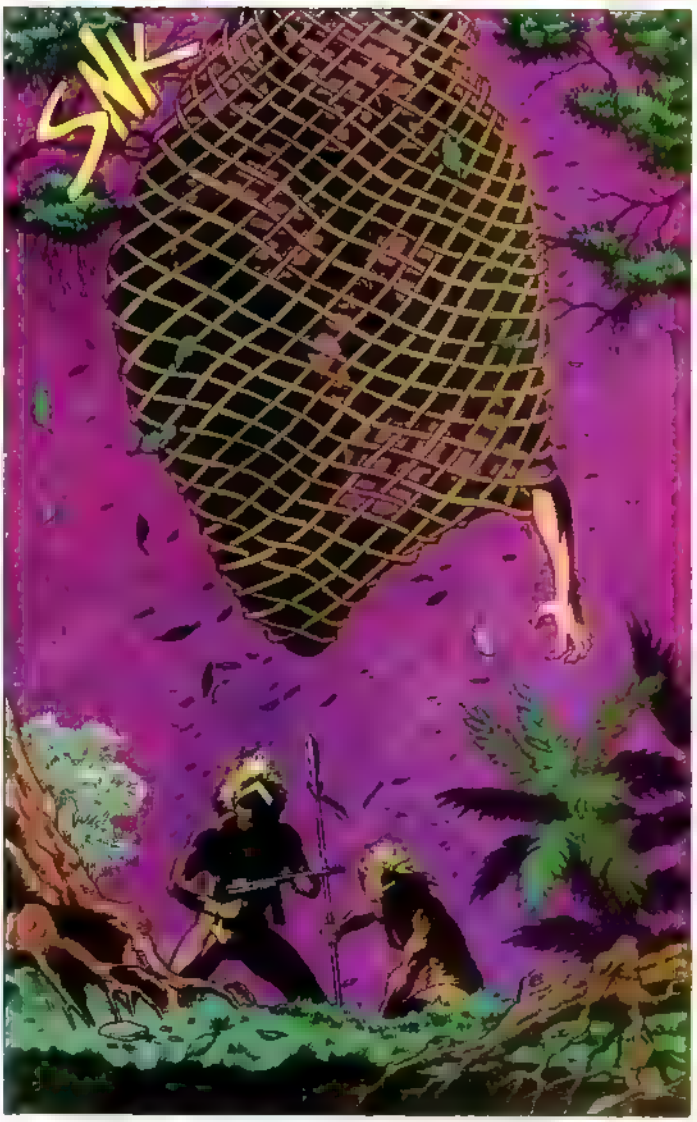
THE YE...OW WOMAN--
THE LEOPARD WOMAN--
NO! NOT SHANNA!
JEREMY-- WE'VE GOT TO--
TAKE THEM... WITH US... INTO...
SILENCE! SILENCE! LISTEN TO ME!
THAT WOMAN--
--BRING ME THE WOMAN... ALIVE!

SHOOTING STOPPED... JEREMY...
...MAYBE WE CAN MAKE--

THE RIVER! THE RIVER!

PLEASE, JEREMY...


...HOLD ON...WE'RE ALMOST--


SNK

SOON...
AND WHICH OF YOU IS SHANNA'S CURRENT PET? OR S IT BOTH?
HER APPETITES INCREASE AS HER STANDARDS DE-CLINE..S THAT IT?
YOU OWE ME TWO HUNDRED GRAND IN DIAMONDS, MAN.
IS THAT ALL YOU WANT, WILSON? THEN LET ME G VE THEM TO YOU--RIGHT HERE...
NOW, LET'S END THIS NONSENSE.
BRING THE RITUAL TO ITS CLIMAX! BRING YOUR CHIEF H.S PRIZE!
"...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THEM?"
"BRING HER...
"...BRING HER..."

...BRING MY BRIDE.
YOU COULD HAVE HAD ME, SHANNA, LONG AGO. BUT YOU COULDN'T STOMACH THE REALITIES OF AFRICA.
WELL, YOU'RE IN LUCK NOW, MY LOVER... BETRAYED ME RECENTLY. HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE MY POWER, MY WEALTH...
...BUT ON MY TERMS.
DON'T KID YOURSELF, GUY.
THIS "MOVEMENT" OF YOURS IS JUST A DRUG.
YOU'RE DEBASING THE SPIRIT OF AFRICA, NOT REAWAKENING IT.
IT SOUNDS AS IF YOUR SPIRIT NEEDS SOME REAWAKENING, DEAR. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT...TONIGHT.
YOU KNOW WHAT THE OLD ELIXIR OF RHINO BLOOD DOES FOR ME.
RHINO BLOOD...
THIS MAN IS WOUNDED. HE NEEDS CARE.
HE'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF. RIGHT AFTER THE WEDDING FEAST.
AND WHERE IS ERIC HELLER?
OH, HE'LL BE HERE! WHY, WE CAN'T HAVE THE FEAST WITHOUT HIM!

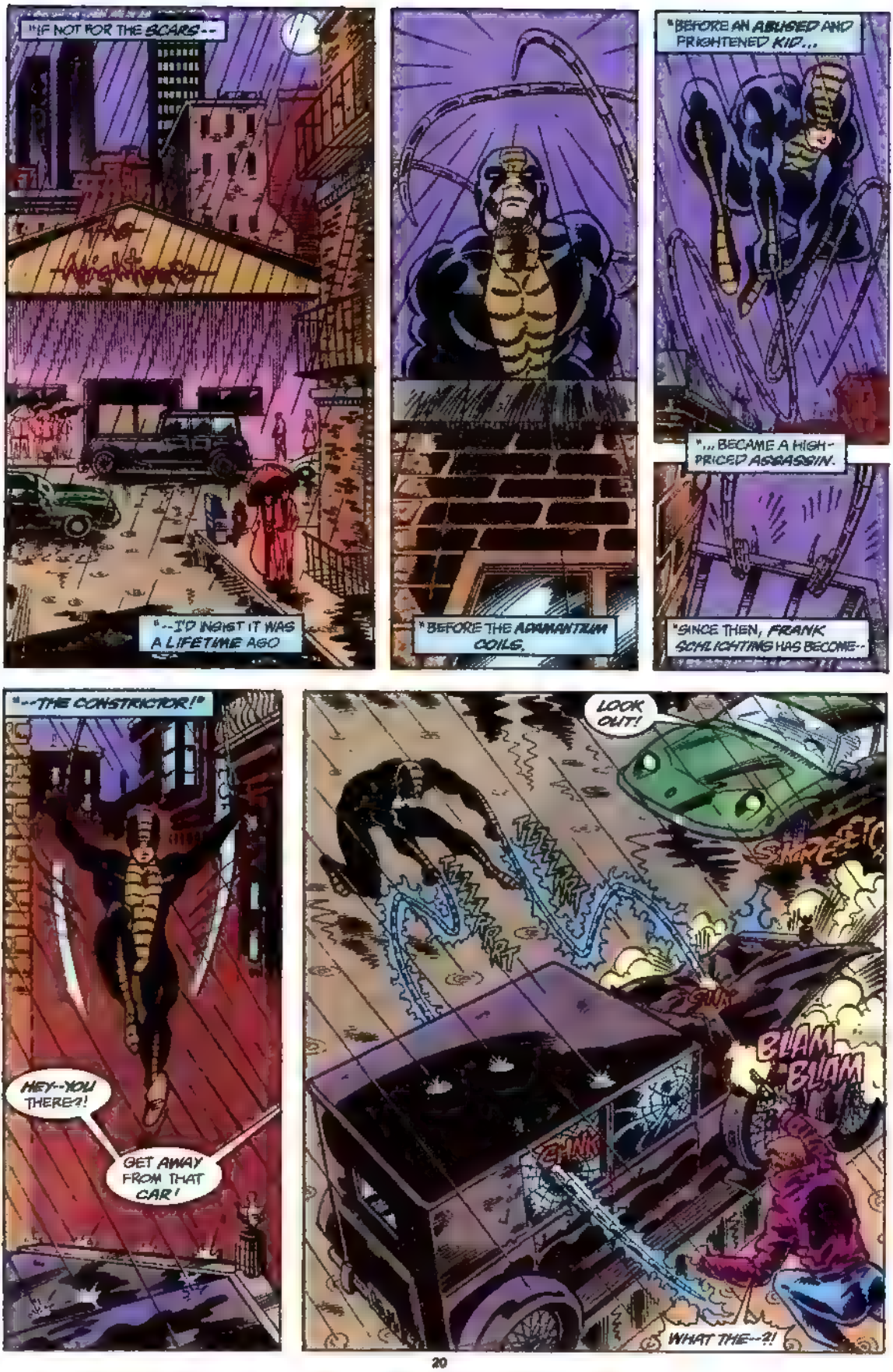
CHEAP THEATRICS.
SHOULD'VE JUST KILLED THESE SPIES.
A FEAST! TO JOIN US AND NURTURE US. THIS WILL BENEFIT YOUR INJURED FRIEND, SHANNA.
IN AFRICA, YOU KNOW, WE BELIEVE THAT WE GAIN STRENGTH AND COURAGE BY EATING THE MEAT...
...OF AN ANIMAL WHICH POSSESSES THOSE VIRTUES.
CHK
KRK
WELL...
...I THINK WE HAVE ONE HERE!

NOOOOOOOOOO
BUTCHERS!
BRATATA TATATATATATATA
ZIP
VIP
TZING
BUTCHERS!
NO MORE DEATH!
TATATATA
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

THE
"FREEBIE"
FEATURING
CONSTRICTOR
SIR--I FOUND THE OTHER ONE.
THIS SIDE UP

GEORGE-- I'M NOT REAL GOOD WITH KIDS ..
I UNDERSTAND THIS IS HARD ON ALL OF US
HELLO, SON. I'M CAPTAIN STACY. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HURT. BUT THAT'S OVER NOW
COME HERE, SON--
--I PROMISE YOU'LL BE SAFE
THERE YOU GO! EVERYTHING WILL BE--
MY SISTER-- AMY...?
WE WERE TOO LATE.
I'M SORRY
CAPTAIN, WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH-- THIS?

READ HIM HIS RIGHTS AND BOOK HIM...
...TWO COUNTS OF MURDER FOR THE DEATH OF HIS COMMON-LAW WIFE AND HER DAUGHTER--
AND ONE COUNT ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD.
YOU GOT NOTHING ON ME, PIG! NOTHING!
HEY!
WHY YOU--!
YOU DON'T SAY NOTHING, FRANKIE!
NOTHING, OR SO HELP ME...
...I'LL KILL YOU, YOU LITTLE--
GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
SSSSS SSSSS
WHA--?!
AAARR!
SOMEBODY-- HELP! GET HIM OFF OF MEEE!
SSSSS SSSSS
NO, SON-- DON'T DO IT!
NOOOOOOO!
"AND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT WAY"


"IF NOT FOR THE SCARS--
"--I'D INSIST IT WAS A LIFETIME AGO
"BEFORE THE ADAMANTIUM COILS.
"BEFORE AN ABUSED AND FRIGHTENED KID...
"... BECAME A HIGH-PRICED ASSASSIN.
"SINCE THEN, FRANK SCHLICHTING HAS BECOME--
"--THE CONSTRICTOR!"
HEY--YOU THERE?!
GET AWAY FROM THAT CAR!
LOOK OUT!
SHREEE!
BLAM BLAM
CLANK
WHAT THE--?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SKRATCH
A RAID?
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
MCAVEY!
MCAVEY--ISN'T THAT THE OWNER?
LOOK OUT!
HE'S LOOKING FOR MCAVEY!
CALL THE POLICE!
IS HE A GOOD GUY OR A BAD GUY?
"NEITHER. I'M JUST A GUY..
"...PLAGUED BY NIGHTMARES FROM HIS PAST"
FRANKIE, COULD YOU TELL THE COURT WHAT YOU SAW THAT NIGHT?
"I PRACTICED FOR MONTHS BEFORE THE TRIAL
I WAS PREPARED TO TELL THE TRUTH."
I--
TAKE YOUR TIME...
I--
NOTHING! YOU SAW NOTHING!
I'LL KILL YOU I'LL KILL YOU I'LL KILL YOU
I-

TELL THEM!
TELL THEM WHAT HE DID TO YOU--TO YOUR SISTER!
HE'S GOING TO GET AWAY.
PLEASE, FRANKIE...
I...
...DIDN'T SEE NOTHING
DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE--
--THE COURT FINDS THE DEFENDANT INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES
NOOOOO!
WHO'S HE TALKING TO?
HE LOOKS SO SAD.
SAD? HE'S CRAZY!
HEY, SNAKE MAN--ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?!
BLAM BLAM
THE OTHER GUY'S GOT A GUN!
GET DOWN!
ARRRR!
YEES, MSAVEY--
SNAPP
CRKSK
--I'M LOOKING FOR YOU!!

SMASH!
:CHOK:
COMING BACK TO NEW YORK WAS DUMB, McAVEY!
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED UNDERGROUND AFTER THE TRIAL!
SOMEONE STOP HIM!

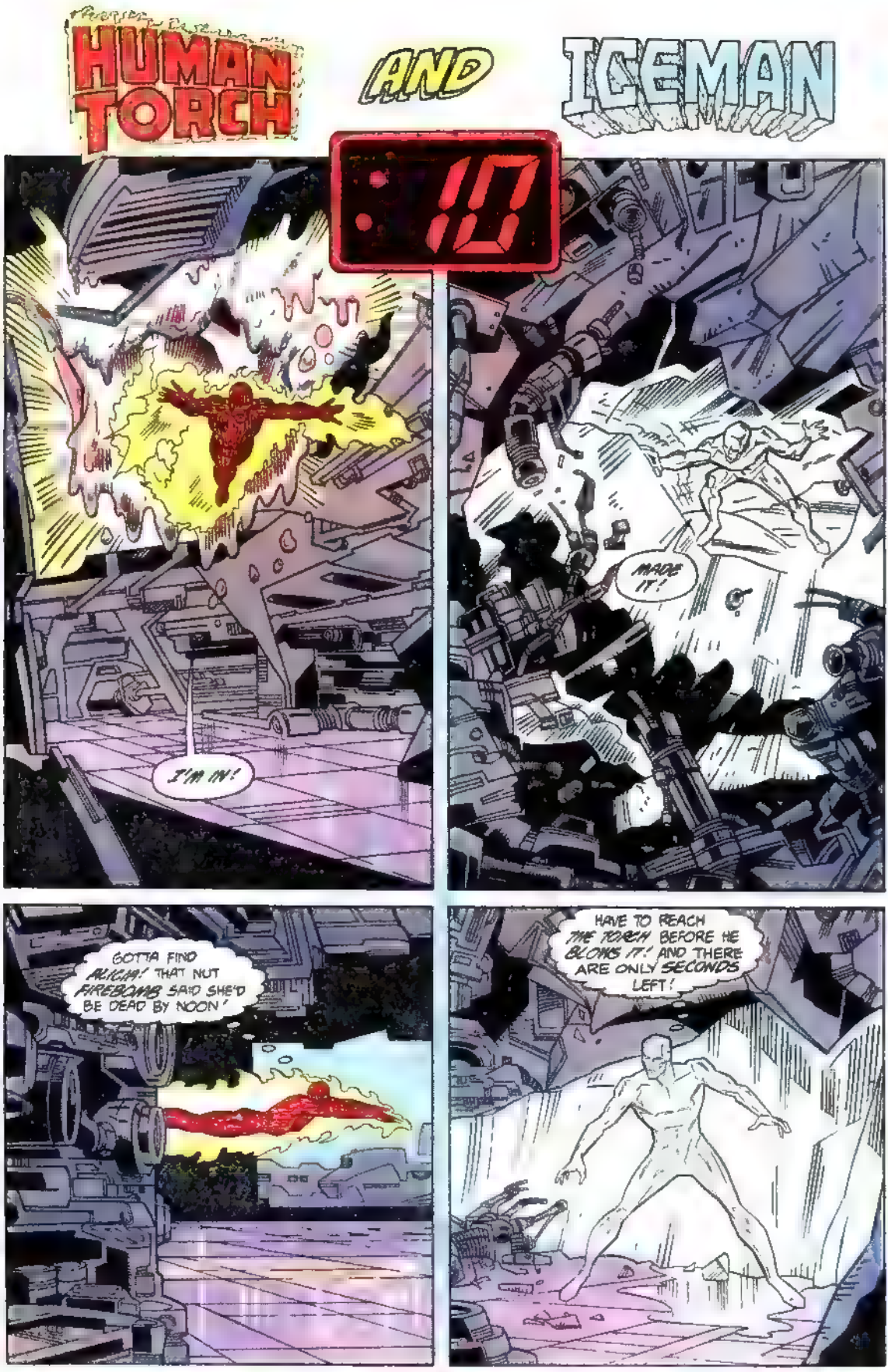
HE'S GOING TO KILL THE GUY!
THE TRIAL IS ANCIENT HISTORY!
W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

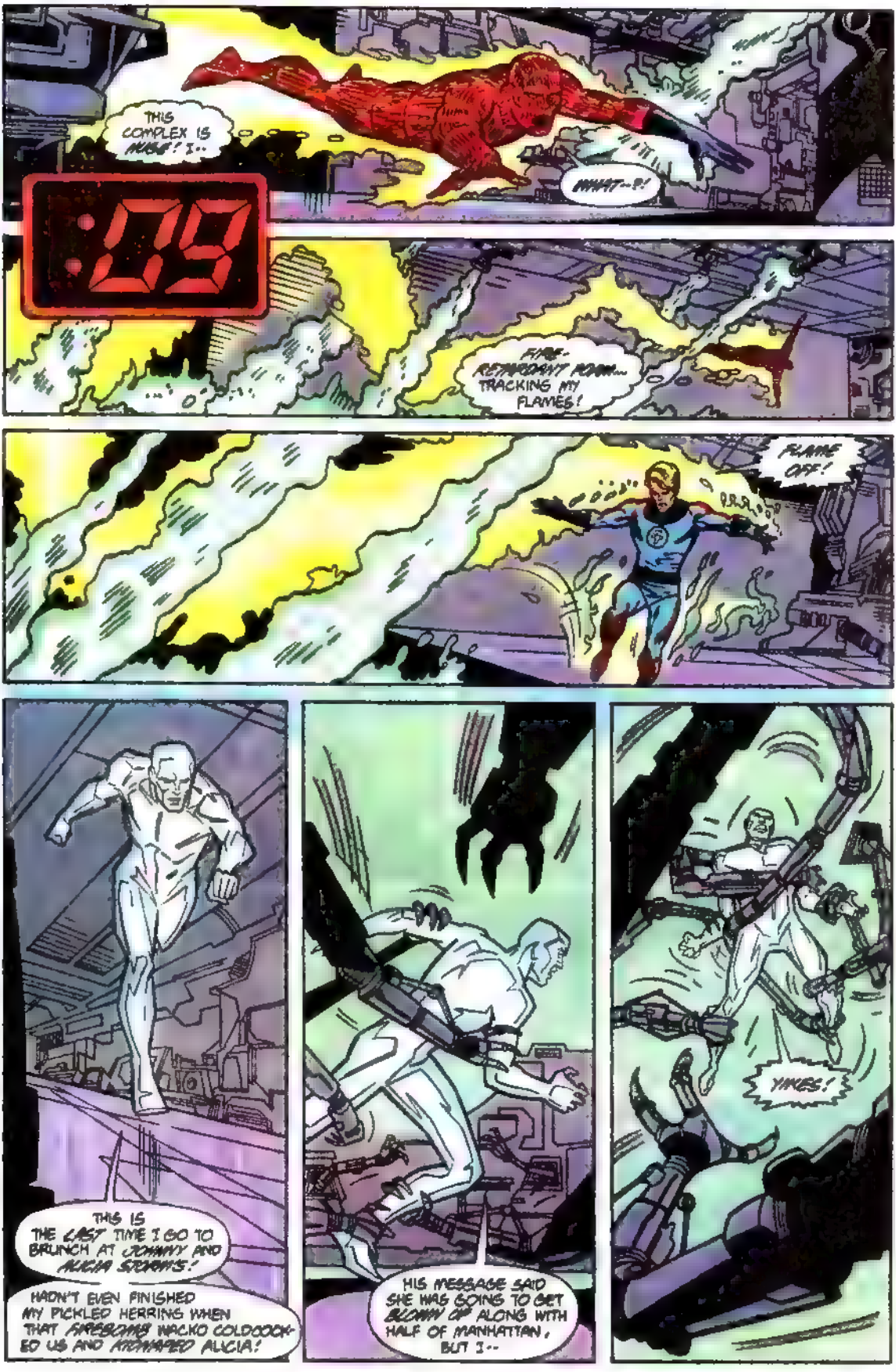
WHAT DO I WANT?
WHAT I WANT IS MY LIFE BACK!

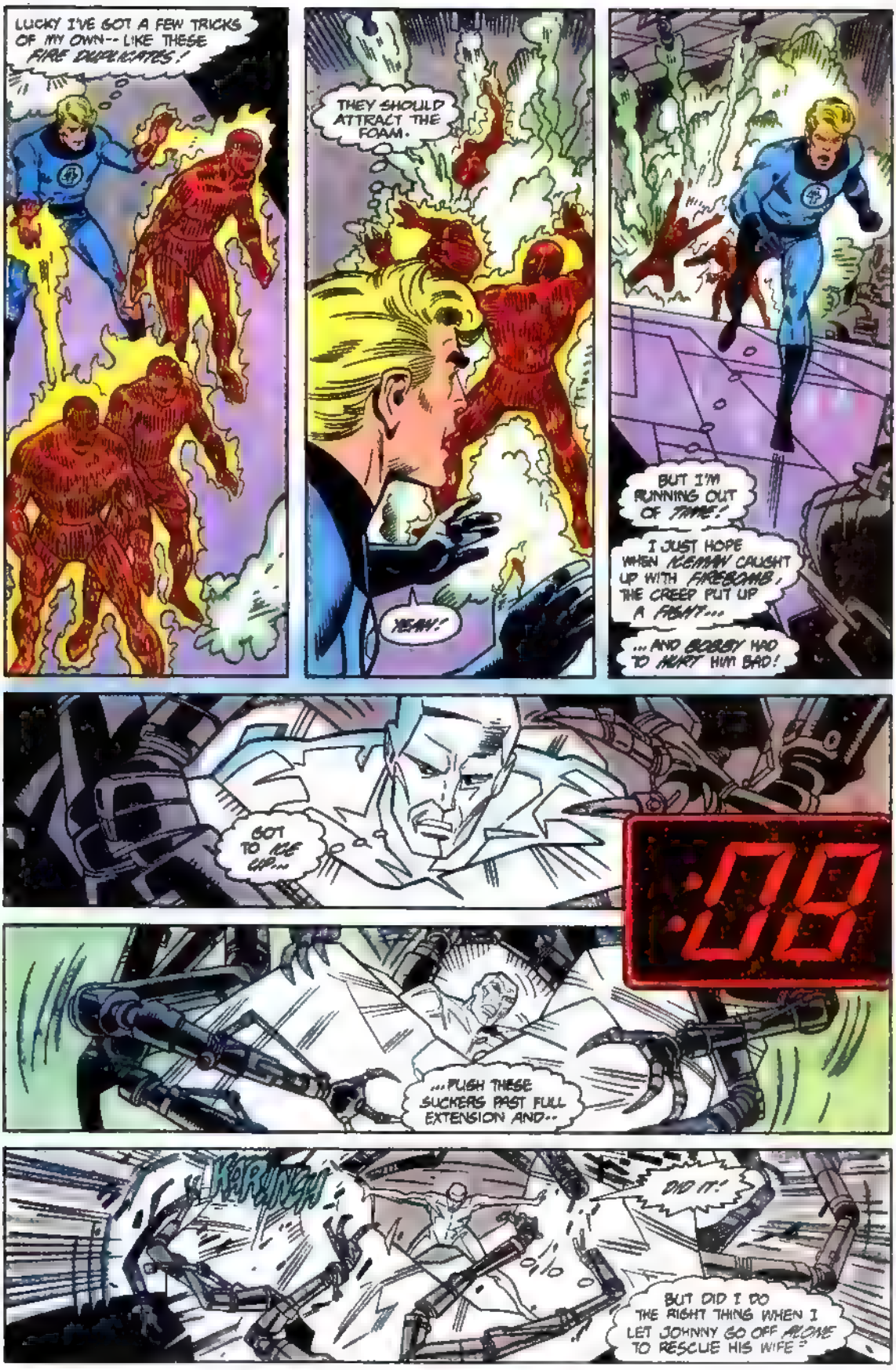
I WANT MY SISTER AND MOTHER TO BE ALIVE!
I WANT THE CHILDHOOD YOU TOOK FROM ME!
Y-YOU--?

TAKE A LOOK, McAVEY...

REMEMBER ME?
F-FRANKIE?
PLEASE--
DON'T KILL ME
KILL YOU? MAYBE--
--BUT NOT TODAY.
I SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE LOOKING UNDER THE BED--AFRAID OF THE SHADOWS!
BUT THE SHADOWS WERE EMPTY! THERE WAS NOTHING THERE BUT THE FEAR YOU CREATED!
gak
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, McAVEY
YES-- I'LL KILL YOU...
...BUT NOT TODAY.
CHECK UNDER THE BED. LOOK INTO THE SHADOWS.
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME...
...IS THAT I'LL BE THERE
*NOT EVEN CLOSE TO... THE End

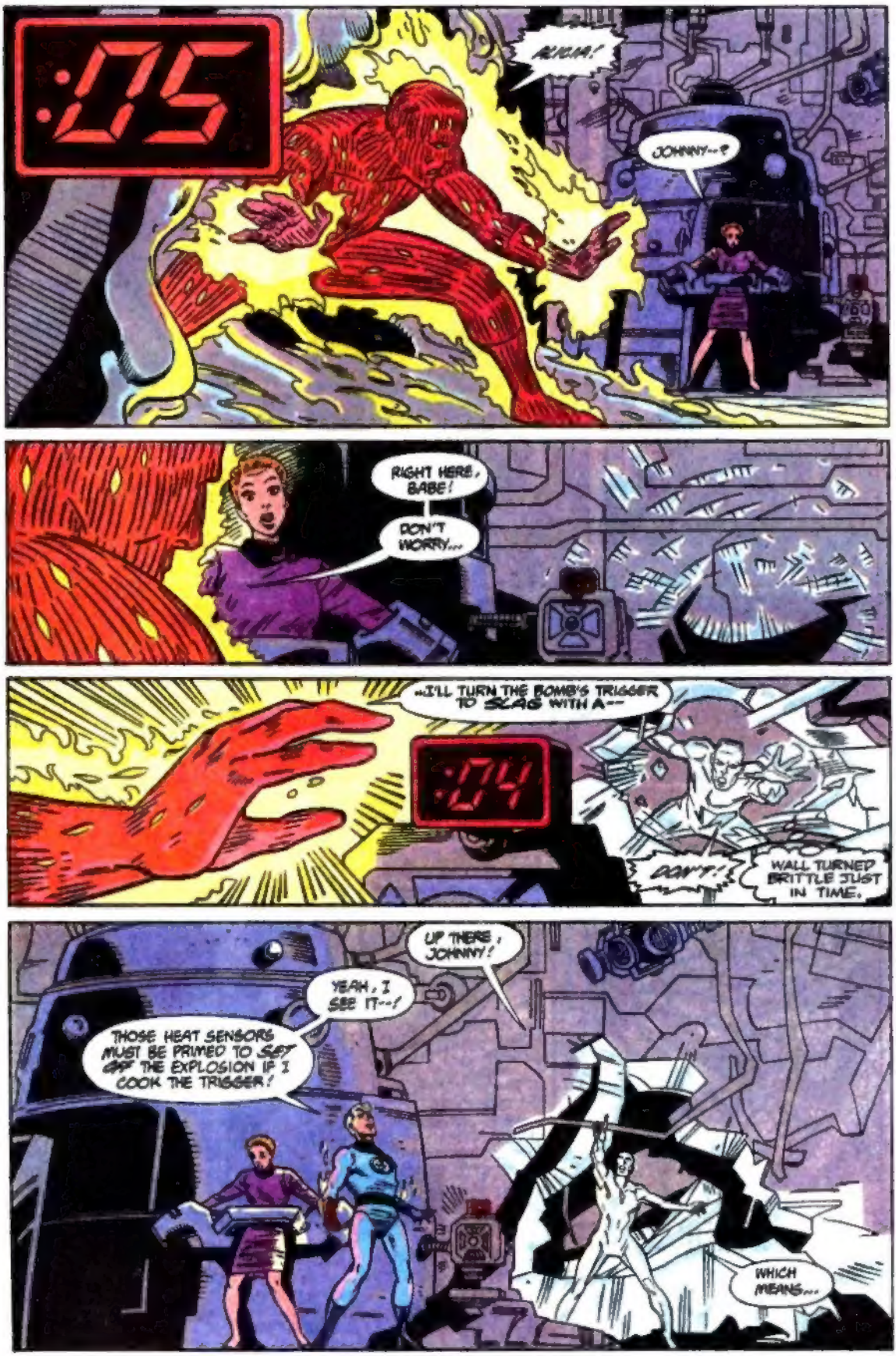

HUMAN TORCH
AND
ICEMAN
:10
I'M IN!
MADE IT!
GOTTA FIND ALICIA! THAT NUT FIREBOMB SAID SHE'D BE DEAD BY NOON!
HAVE TO REACH THE TORCH BEFORE HE BLOWS IT! AND THERE ARE ONLY SECONDS LEFT!

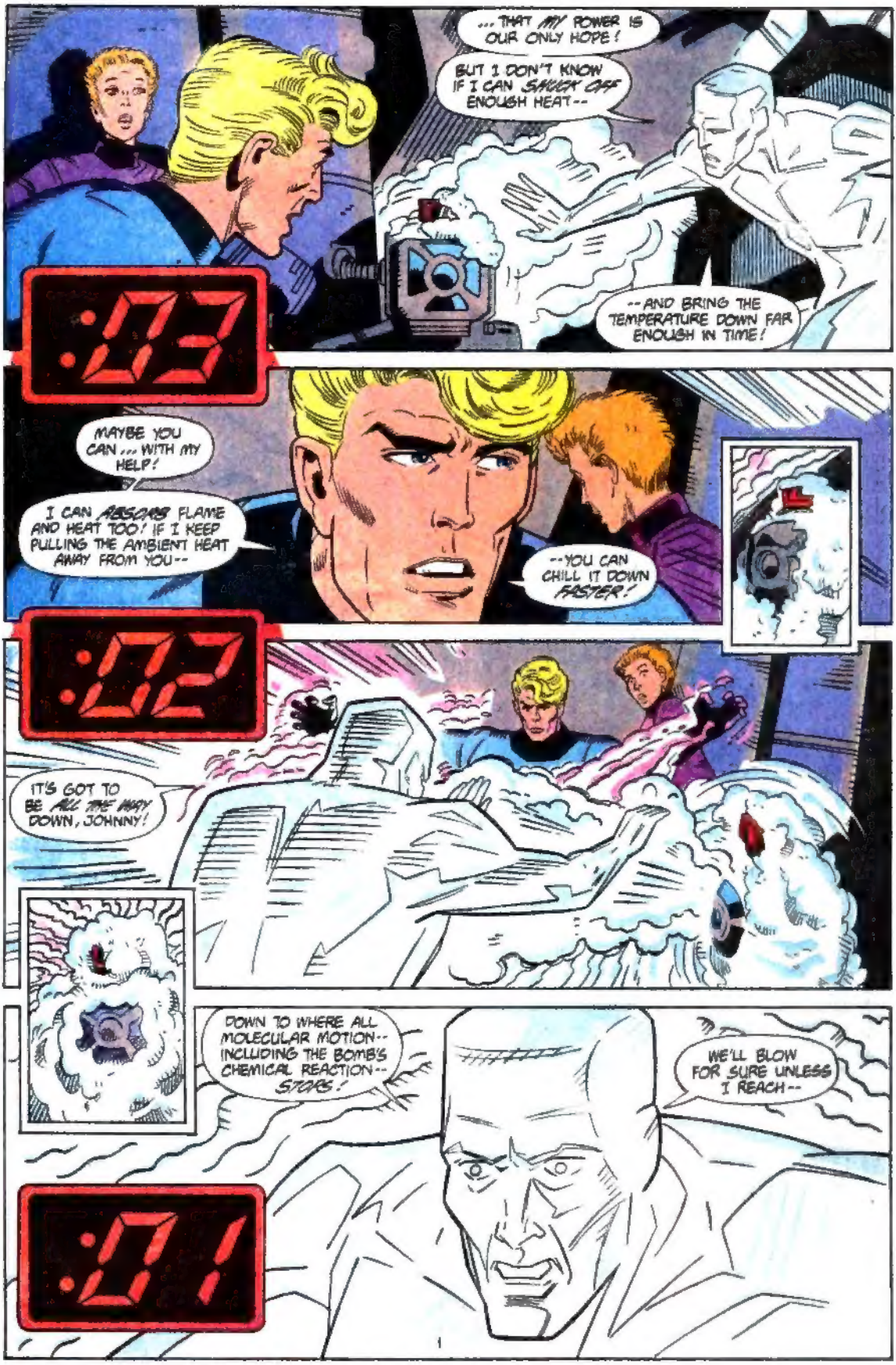

THIS COMPLEX IS HUGE! I..
WHAT--?!
:09
FIRE-RETARDANT FOAM... TRACKING MY FLAMES!
FLAME OFF!
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I GO TO BRUNCH AT JOHNNY AND ALICIA STORM'S!
HADN'T EVEN FINISHED MY PICKLED HERRING WHEN THAT AWESOME WACKO COLDCOCKED US AND KIDNAPPED ALICIA!
HIS MESSAGE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO GET BLOWN UP ALONG WITH HALF OF MANHATTAN, BUT I--
YIKES!


LUCKY I'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS OF MY OWN-- LIKE THESE FIRE DUPLICATES!
THEY SHOULD ATTRACT THE FOAM.
YEAH!
BUT I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
I JUST HOPE WHEN NORMAN CAUGHT UP WITH FIREBOMB, THE CREEP PUT UP A FIGHT...
...AND BOBBY HAD TO HURT HIM BAD!
GOT TO KEEP UP...
:09
...PUSH THESE SUCKERS PAST FULL EXTENSION AND--
KERUNCH
DID IT!
BUT DID I DO THE RIGHT THING WHEN I LET JOHNNY GO OFF ALONE TO RESCUE HIS WIFE?

NOW WHERE...
IT'S HIM -- THE TORCH!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
:07
WHAM!
JOHNNY REALLY HAD A MAD ON WHEN HE WENT TO FIND ALICIA--
-- AND WHEN I CAUGHT UP WITH FIREBOMB--
POOM!
-- I GOT THE FEELING THAT THAT'S WHAT THAT CREEP WAS COUNTING ON!

NOW WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY WIFE!?
EULP!
ALL RIGHT! GET OUT!
OR DIDN'T YOUR BOSS TELL YOU YOU WERE SITTING ON TOP OF A TIME BOMB?
:06
BUT THESE ARE JUST THE PRELIMINARIES...!
FIREBOMB WANTS ME BLOWN UP TOO--
MORE OBSTACLES!
GIANT LENS TO MELT ME DOWN!
--AND HE CLAIMED I'D SEE IT WAS ALL THE TORCH'S FAULT!


:05
AUGH!
JOHNNY--?
RIGHT HERE, BABE!
DON'T WORRY...
...I'LL TURN THE BOMB'S TRIGGER TO SLAG WITH A--
:04
WALL TURNED BRITTLE JUST IN TIME.
UP THERE, JOHNNY!
YEAH, I SEE IT--!
THOSE HEAT SENSORS MUST BE PRIMED TO SET OFF THE EXPLOSION IF I COOK THE TRIGGER!
WHICH MEANS...


...THAT MY POWER IS OUR ONLY HOPE!
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SUCK OFF ENOUGH HEAT--
--AND BRING THE TEMPERATURE DOWN FAR ENOUGH IN TIME!
:13
MAYBE YOU CAN... WITH MY HELP!
I CAN ABSORB FLAME AND HEAT TOO! IF I KEEP PULLING THE AMBIENT HEAT AWAY FROM YOU--
--YOU CAN CHILL IT DOWN FASTER!
:12
IT'S GOT TO BE ALL THE WAY DOWN, JOHNNY!
DOWN TO WHERE ALL MOLECULAR MOTION--INCLUDING THE BOMB'S CHEMICAL REACTION--STOPS!
WE'LL BLOW FOR SURE UNLESS I REACH--
:11

ABSOLUTE
ZERO!
THE END.

HUMAN TORCH
AND
ICEMAN™
TEAM-UP TO SAVE THE TORCH'S WIFE FROM EXPLOSIVE DEATH!
THE CONSTRICTOR™
FACES THE HORROR THAT TURNED HIM TO VILLAINY!
SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL™
CONFRONTS THE EVIL THAT POISONS HER JUNGLE!
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